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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the just-concluded Millennium Summit of the United Nations and during the general debate of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, delegates from a very few countries have once again raised the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations". In this regard, and upon instruction from my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The one-China principle has already been widely recognized by the international community. The great majority of Member States of the United Nations have diplomatic relations with China and they have all acknowledged that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. In 1971, at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Assembly adopted, by an overwhelming majority, the historic resolution 2758 (XXVI), which has solved once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. The Government of the People's Republic of China rightfully represents all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, at the United Nations and in all its subsidiary bodies. Therefore, there is simply no such issue as the so-called "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations".

2. The United Nations is an intergovernmental international organization composed of sovereign States. As a part of China, Taiwan is not eligible to participate, in whatever name and under whatever pretext, in the work or activities of the United Nations system or of the specialized agencies. However, a very few countries, instigated by the Taiwan authorities, have openly raised the so-called issue of Taiwan's "participation" in the United Nations on the platform of the General Assembly, attempting to create in the United Nations a situation of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". Such an act is a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as of resolution 2758 (XXVI). It is a gross interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government strongly condemns and expresses its utmost indignation over this.

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3. During all of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993, the General Committee has flatly refused to include in the agenda of the General Assembly the issue of the so-called Taiwan's "participation" in the United Nations. This fully demonstrates the determination of the vast number of Member States to safeguard the Charter and norms of international law as well as their strong will to preserve resolution 2758 (XXVI). We appreciate the position of the great majority of Member States who have abided by the one-China principle and opposed Taiwan's participation in international organizations composed only of sovereign States. We sincerely thank all countries that have upheld justice on the question of Taiwan and supported China's reunification. At the same time, we are confident that any separatist act, against the tide of history, to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" and any attempt to support such acts are doomed to failure.

4. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China, which brooks no foreign interference. To solve this question and realize the reunification of the motherland is a lofty historic mission for the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan. The basic policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", proposed by the Chinese Government, has not only taken into account the paramount interest of national development and the long-term interest of the entire Chinese population, but also fully accommodated and helped protect the immediate interests of our compatriots in Taiwan and Taiwan's need for development. It has been warmly supported by all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, and has been well received by the international community. The smooth return of Hong Kong and Macao to China have served as telling examples of the great success of the policy of "one country, two systems". We have every reason to believe that, in the just cause of safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese Government and people will be able to continue to count on the Governments and peoples of the vast number of Member States of the United Nations for their understanding and support.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 57.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
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Permanent Representative of the People's Republic
of China to the United Nations